

# **Iraq Weekly Status Report**

**February 20, 2008**

**Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs  
US Department of State**



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## HIGHLIGHTS

- The Council of Representatives transmitted three key pieces of legislation to the Presidency Council February 17: the 2008 budget, a Provincial Powers law, and an Amnesty law. All three bills must be approved by the Presidency Council and subsequently published in the Official Gazette to become law. **(POLITICAL, page 4)**
- An Iraqi Air Force C-130, loaded, flown, and maintained entirely by Iraqis, delivered supplies to Iraqi National Police and Iraqi Army units in Mosul. **(SECURITY, page 12)**
- Iraq's CoR passed the 2008 budget on February 13. The budget includes increases for both security and investment expenditures. **(ECONOMIC, page 14)**
- According to the Iraq Ministry of Oil, over 70 international oil firms have registered to compete for tenders on Iraq's oil reserves. **(ECONOMIC, page 15)**
- Swedish Ambassador Niclas Trouve and Iraqi Foreign Minister Zebari signed an agreement that calls for Iraq to receive Iraqi asylum seekers who have been denied entry by Sweden. **(DIPLOMATIC, page 24)**
- Iraq's Oil Ministry has denied media reports of an agreement to award development of the West Qurna to Russia's Lukoil in return for Moscow's cancellation of \$12.9 billion of Saddam-era debt. **(DIPLOMATIC, page 25)**



## POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

### CoR Transmits Budget, Provincial Powers, and Amnesty:

- The Council of Representatives transmitted three key pieces of legislation to the Presidency Council February 17: the 2008 budget, a Provincial Powers law, and an Amnesty law. The Provincial Powers law will help define the bounds of authority between the central and provincial governments in Iraq's federal system. The Amnesty law would establish a committee to review cases of detainees scheduled for amnesty releases; most of those potentially affected are Sunni. All three bills must be approved by the Presidency Council and subsequently published in the Official Gazette to become law. If the Presidency Council takes no action within ten days of February 17, the law is by default approved and transmitted to the Official Gazette.

### Trial of Senior Iraqi Officials Delayed:

- The terrorism trial of former Iraqi deputy health minister Hakim al-Zamili was postponed March 4 after several witnesses failed to appear in court. "The presiding judge has decided to adjourn the case because some of the plaintiffs did not attend the trial to complete some formal procedures," Zamili's lawyer said. Al-Zamili is the first senior Iraqi official to face terrorism charges since the start of the war. He and his former chief of security are accused of infiltrating Shiite death squad forces into the ministry during a period of sectarian violence in February 2007. If convicted, the two men could face the death penalty.



## POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

### UNAMI Works to Fill Remaining Governorate Electoral Officer Positions:

- Staffan de Mistura, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Iraq, announced that UNAMI would assist Iraq's CoR in selecting the eight outstanding Governorate Electoral Office (GEO) directors instead of replacing all 20, as previously announced. The plan will shorten selection time of the GEOs from 59 to 43 days, according to de Mistura. The time constraints to select the GEOs tightened because the recently passed Provincial Powers Law requires provincial elections to be held no later than October 1, 2008. GEOs function as the chief elections officer in a province.

### Iraq's Prisons Overwhelmed:

- The New York Times reported February 14 that the U.S. troop surge has inundated the country's already overburdened prisons and courts with additional Iraqi detainees. Iraq's justice system does not have enough beds, investigative judges or lawyers to absorb the thousands of suspects that have been detained since last summer. More than half of the 26,000 prisoners are still awaiting trial, American officials have reported. The Iraqi legislature approved an amnesty bill February 13 that could free thousands of prisoners but the Iraqi Ministry of Justice will still require tens of thousands of new prison beds to consolidate detainees being held throughout the country by Iraqi and U.S. forces.



## POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

### UNHCR to Boost Baghdad Presence, Assess Returns:

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres and Iraqi FM Zebari held a press conference in which Guterres announced that UNHCR would boost its Baghdad-based staff from two to five. Zebari stated that the two had discussed the possibility of promoting refugee returns, noting that not all areas in Iraq are unsafe, but acknowledging that a number of standards still need to be met. UNHCR proposes to conduct a joint assessment under GOI lead to analyze the conditions for successful returns. Questioned about GOI assistance to refugees, Zebari mentioned the \$25 million pledge, adding that the GOI needs to do more for Iraqi refugees in cooperation with international organizations.



## POLITICAL - Provincial

### Baghdad Markets Remain Open Despite Recent Suicide Attacks:

- Market activity in the key Baghdad shopping areas of Karada, Rusafa, 9 Nissan, and Rashid districts appears essentially unaffected two weeks after the February 1 suicide attacks on popular "pet markets." While the two pet markets are open for business, some shoppers do appear to be staying away from those particular venues for the time being, according to PRT contacts and the EPRT covering the areas. Generally, however, key markets remain animated, with activity high. Atmospheric reporting indicates that, despite these recent terrorist acts and other security-related incidents, the citizens of Baghdad continue to go about their daily lives.

### Ministry of Human Rights to Begin Mass Graves Excavation Project in Najaf April 1:

- Minister of Human Rights Wijdan Salim announced in a meeting with Embassy officers February 17 that her Ministry will officially inaugurate a mass graves excavation project in Najaf on April 1 in a public ceremony at the site. The Ministry will begin with one of the eight mass graves sites in Najaf, with the intention of excavating all eight. The Ministry will take pictures and DNA samples in order to identify each body and help families find missing relatives. Najaf government officials gave the Ministry a piece of land next to the mass graves site in which they will rebury each body after the identification process. According to the Minister, there had been problems previously with religious authorities giving permission to disinter the bodies, but this has now been resolved.



# POLITICAL – Government of Iraq

Coalition Affiliation (at time of appointment)

United Iraq Alliance

Kurdistani Alliance

Iraqi Accord Front

Iraqi National List

Other / Independent

(F) = Female

\*Formerly Tawafuq

\*\*Formerly Sadrist/UIA

\*\*\*Formerly Iraqiya

**Prime Minister**

Nuri al-Maliki

**Deputy Prime Minister**

\* Vacant

**Deputy Prime Minister**

Barham Salih

**President**

Jalal Talabani

**Deputy President**

Tariq al-Hashimi

**Deputy President**

'Adil 'Abd al-Mahdi

**Minister of Agriculture**

Ali al-Bahadeli

**Minister of Communications**

\*\*\* Vacant

**Minister of Culture**

\* Vacant

**Minister of Defense**

Abdul Qadir Muhammed  
Jasim al-Mufraji

**Minister of Displacement & Migration**

Abd al-Samad Rahman  
Sultan

**Minister of Electricity**

Karim Wahid

**Minister of Education**

Khudayyir al-Khuza'i

**Minister of Environment**

Narmin 'Uthman (F)

**Minister of Finance**

Bayan Jabr

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Hoshyar Zebari

**Minister of Health**

Saleh al-Hasnawi

**Minister of Higher Education**

\* Vacant

**Minister of Human Rights**

Wijdan Mikha'il (F)

**Minister of Industry & Minerals**

Fawzi al-Hariri

**Minister of Interior**

Jawad al-Bulani

**Minister of Justice**

\*\*\* (Safa al Safi  
acting)

**Minister of Housing & Construction**

Bayan Daza'l (F)

**Minister of Labor & Social Affairs**

Mahmud Muhammad  
Jawad al-Radi

**Minister of Oil**

Husayn al-Shahristani

**Minister of Planning**

Ali Baban

**Minister of Trade**

Abd al-Falah al-Sudani

**Minister of Science & Technology**

Ra'id Fahmi Jahid

**Minister of Municipalities & Public Works**

Riyad Ghurayyib

**Minister of Transportation**

\*\* Vacant

**Minister of Water Resources**

'Abd al-Latif Rashid

**Minister of Youth & Sports**

Jasim Muhammad Ja'far

**Minister of State for Civil Society**

\* (Wijdan Mikha'il  
Acting) (F)

**Minister of State for National Dialogue Affairs**

Akram al-Hakim

**Minister of State for National Security Affairs**

Shirwan al-Waili

**Minister of State for Foreign Affairs**

\* Vacant

**Minister of State for Governorates Affairs**

Sa'd Hashim

**Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities**

\*\* Vacant

**Minister of State for Women's Affairs**

\*\* (Narmeen Othman Acting)

**Minister of State for CoR Affairs**

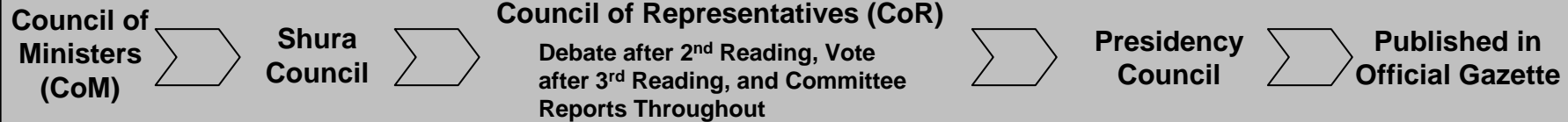
Safa al-Safi





# POLITICAL – Key Legislation and Refugee Update

## Legislative Process



### Provincial Powers

**PASSED: CoR approved law on February 13. Awaits approval by the Presidency Council and publication in the Official Gazette.**

### Elections

Provincial Powers Law requires the Elections Law to be passed by the CoR within 90 days. Provincial Elections are required to be held no later than October 1, 2008. The Prime Minister's Office is currently drafting the law, which will set the legal basis and structure of provincial and national elections

### Hydrocarbons Package

The level of control allocated to the central government in the July 2007 draft version of the Framework Law (currently in CoR Committee) is the key point of disagreement; there may be more progress on the Revenue Management Law, currently with the Shura Council, in the coming months

### Amnesty Law

**PASSED: CoR approved law on February 13. Awaits approval by the Presidency Council and publication in the Official Gazette.**

### Pensions Amendment

**PASSED: Published in the Official Gazette December 2007**

### De-Ba'athification Reform

**PASSED: Approved by default by the Presidency Council February 2008. Must still be published in the Official Gazette)**

## Refugee Update

Refugees in the region: 2-2.4 million

Internally displaced persons in Iraq: 2.2-2.4 million

Total number of Iraqi refugees admitted to the U.S. during to date in FY07-FY08: 3,222



## SECURITY - Situation Update

### Al-Qaida in Iraq Targets Former Allies:

- Documents captured in mid-November show that al-Qaida in Iraq is targeting former allies thought to be disloyal. The documents, found in an AQI torture and execution site, show that AQI prioritized the killing of Sons of Iraq (formerly called Concerned Local Citizens). AQI considered the Sons of Iraq to be the biggest threat to its organization.

### Insurgent Rockets Strike Victory Base Complex, West Rashid:

- Insurgent rockets struck areas of the Victory Base Complex and West Rashid in southwestern Baghdad February 18. The series of rockets killed five Iraqis and wounded 14, including two U.S. soldiers. Eight Iraqis, including six children, were taken to a Coalition force medical clinic for treatment. Coalition and Iraqi Security Forces quick reaction teams captured several insurgents at the scene of the rocket launch, where they also recovered one unexploded rocket.

### Iraqi Police to Round up Mentally Unstable:

- The Iraqi Interior Ministry ordered police February 19 to round up beggars, vagabonds, and the mentally unstable from the streets of Baghdad to prevent AQI from using them as suicide bombers. The individuals detained will be entrusted to government institutions that can provide care and shelter. The move comes after several AQI suicide bombings using mentally disabled women.



## SECURITY – Situation Update

### Operation Marne Grand Slam Kicks Off:

- Coalition forces pursued insurgent elements near Salman Pak February 15, marking the beginning of Operation Marne Grand Slam. U.S. soldiers will clear a peninsula directly south of Salman Pak that extends into the Tigris River before increasing their presence in the areas around Salman Pak. Coalition forces will target AQI safe houses, weapons caches, and firing points. For over a month, U.S. commanders have been working with local sheikhs to arrange security cooperation with their tribesmen and set up Sons of Iraq checkpoints.

### Suicide Bombers Detonate Vests outside Tal Afar Mosque:

- Two suicide bombers detonated explosive vests outside a Tal Afar mosque February 15. Four Iraqis were killed, including an Iraqi Policeman, and 16 were injured. The Iraqi Police, having identified the men as suicide bombers, engaged them in small arms combat and prevented them from entering the mosque. The blasts, occurring during the Friday prayer time, would have been much more deadly and damaging if the bombers had been allowed to enter the mosque and detonate their explosives.



## SECURITY – Security Transition

### Mosul Iraqi Police, Army Receive Air Supplies:

- An Iraqi Air Force C-130, loaded, flown, and maintained entirely by Iraqis, landed in Mosul February 16 with uniforms and nearly 1,000 AK-47 assault rifles for the Iraqi National Police and Iraqi Army in Mosul. The supplies were purchased via Foreign Military Sales, a program in which countries like Iraq purchase military supplies from the U.S. with their own money.

### Iraqi Army's 3rd Bde, 14th Div Graduates, Receives New Equipment:

- The Basrah unit graduated from training at the Besmaya combat training center February 13. The brigade is fully equipped and trained because of Unit Set Fielding, a process that takes an entire army brigade and gives the soldiers the equipment and training they will need to fight, all using Iraqi funds. The first brigade to be so equipped was Diyala's 4th Brigade, 5th Division which received new five-ton trucks with state-of-the-art technology purchased through the Foreign Military Sales program.



# SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces

Iraq Security Forces as of January 1, 2008 <sup>a</sup>			
Component	Current Authorized Personnel <sup>b</sup>	Assigned Personnel <sup>c</sup>	Total Trained Personnel to date <sup>d</sup>
<b>Ministry of Interior (MoI) Forces <sup>e</sup></b>			
Iraqi Police Service <sup>f</sup>	288,001	275,300	155,248
National Police <sup>g</sup>	33,670	32,389	41,399
Border Enforcement	38,205	39,649	27,959
<b>Total MoI</b>	<b>359,876</b>	<b>347,338</b>	<b>224,606</b>
<b>Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces <sup>h</sup></b>			
Army	186,352	159,938	174,940
Support Forces	17,369	18,794	19,750
Air Force	2,907	1,305	1,370
Navy	1,483	1,115	1,194
<b>Total MoD</b>	<b>208,111</b>	<b>181,152</b>	<b>197,254</b>
<b>Counter Terrorism Bureau</b>			
Special Operations	4,857	3,126	3,485
<b>Total Iraqi Security Forces</b>	<b>572,844</b>	<b>531,616</b>	<b>425,345</b>

a Numbers do not include ministry staffs.

b Numbers reflect Government of Iraq (GOI) authorizations.

c Numbers are based upon GOI payroll data and do not reflect present for duty totals.

d Numbers reflect assigned personnel that have received training.

e Numbers reflect total ISF personnel trained to date, some of which are no longer assigned due to casualties, AWOL, and normal separation.

f MoI strength does not reflect investigative and administrative forces, the MoI HQ, MoI Forensics, Dignitary Protection, or contracted guards.

g MoI Police Support Unit, Provincial Security Force, and Emergency Response Unit personnel are part of the Iraqi Police Service and does not include other Ministry FPS.

h The MoD strength are derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs).



## ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

### GOI Passes 2008 Budget:

- Iraq's CoR passed the 2008 budget February 13. The budget shows increases for security expenditures - up to \$9 billion from \$7.5 billion in 2007 - and investment expenditures - up to \$13.2 billion from \$10 billion in 2007. In 2007, both GOI ministries and provincial governments steadily improved their ability to execute investment budgets and further improvements are expected in 2008. Walid Khalid, a Baghdad economic expert, cautioned however: "The problem is not the size of the budget but whether it will be spent properly and free of financial and administrative corruption."

### GOI Reaches Deal on Aircraft Purchases:

- Iraq will purchase commercial aircraft from Boeing and Bombardier in a deal which is Iraq's first major purchase of airplanes since the 1980s. The deal is worth approximately \$5 billion and includes a total of 50 aircraft. Forty of the planes are newly constructed from Boeing, and six from Bombardier, a Canadian manufacturer. Iraq ceased its airline operations in the mid-1990s and lost much of its aircraft fleet during the 2003 war.

### Nasiriyah May See New Oil Refinery:

- Iraqi Oil Minister Hussein al-Shahristani announced that Iraq intends to build a large oil refinery in Nasiriyah during a recent visit there. Iraq's Oil Ministry is negotiating with international firms to build a refinery that would increase Iraq's overall bpd refining capacity by 300,000. Shahristani was quoted as saying, "Instead of importers we will become exporters of oil products. The Oil Ministry has begun negotiating with the world's largest companies; there are just a few in the world."



## ECONOMIC – Oil

### Crude Oil Update:

*Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:*

Basrah Light at \$89.65/ barrel

Dated Brent at \$94.074/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$94.12/ barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$89.44/barrel

*Revenue estimates:*

2006: \$31.3 Billion

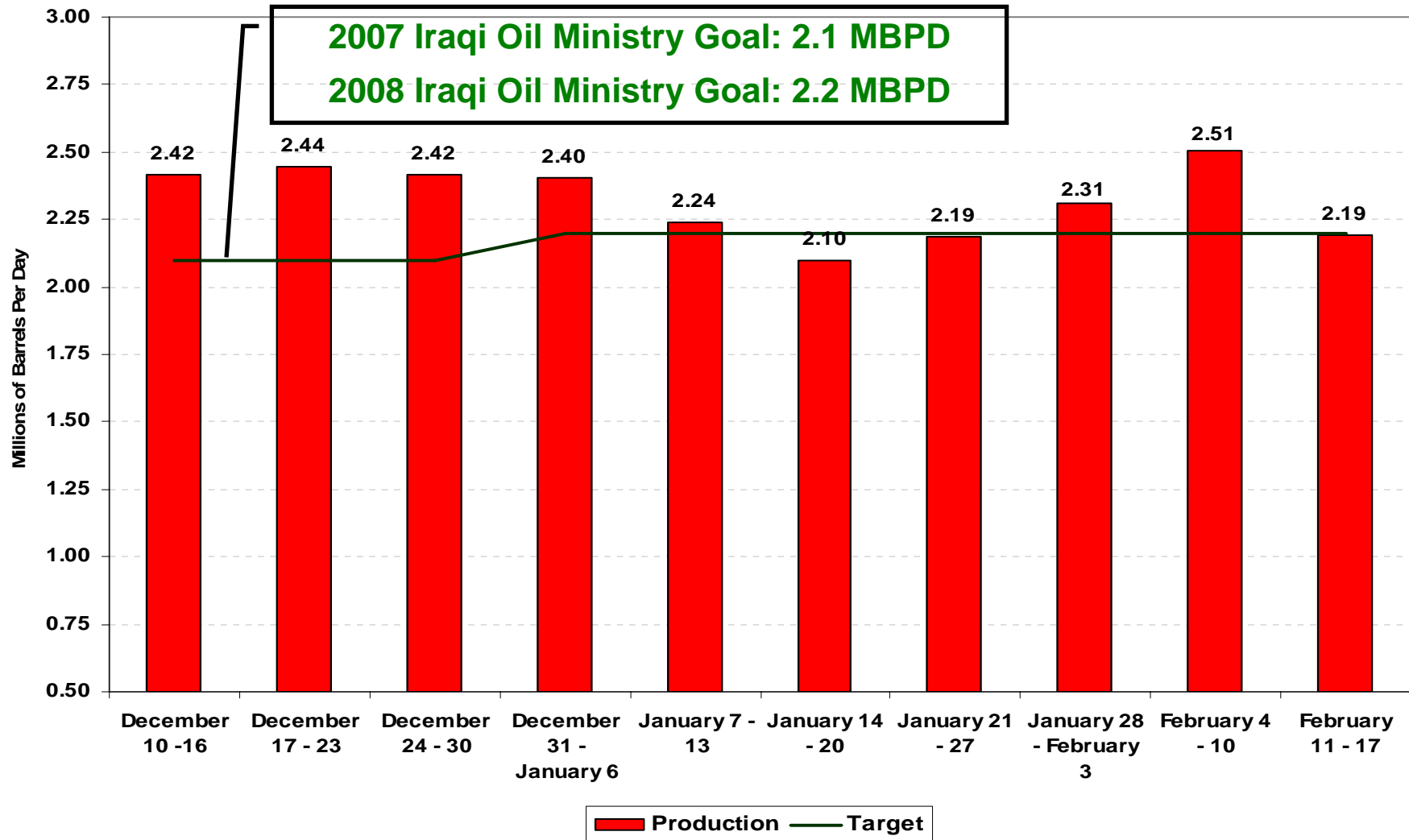
2007: \$34.4 Billion (estimated)

### Over 70 Firms Register With Oil Ministry for Contracting Rights:

- According to the Iraq Ministry of Oil, over 70 international oil firms have registered to compete for tenders on Iraq's oil reserves; included among these firms are Royal Dutch Shell, Total, Repsol YPF, ConocoPhillips, BP, and Norway's StatoilHydro. Oil Ministry spokesman Asim Jihad said, "We are going to carefully study and check the documentation. Next month we will declare the companies that are permitted to work in the Iraqi oilfields." These tenders will not provide long-term involvement by oil companies but will provide needed development of Iraq's oil infrastructure. Only Iran and Saudi Arabia hold larger oil reserves than Iraq; Iraq currently produces about 2.3 million barrels per day, a small output considering the size its reserves.



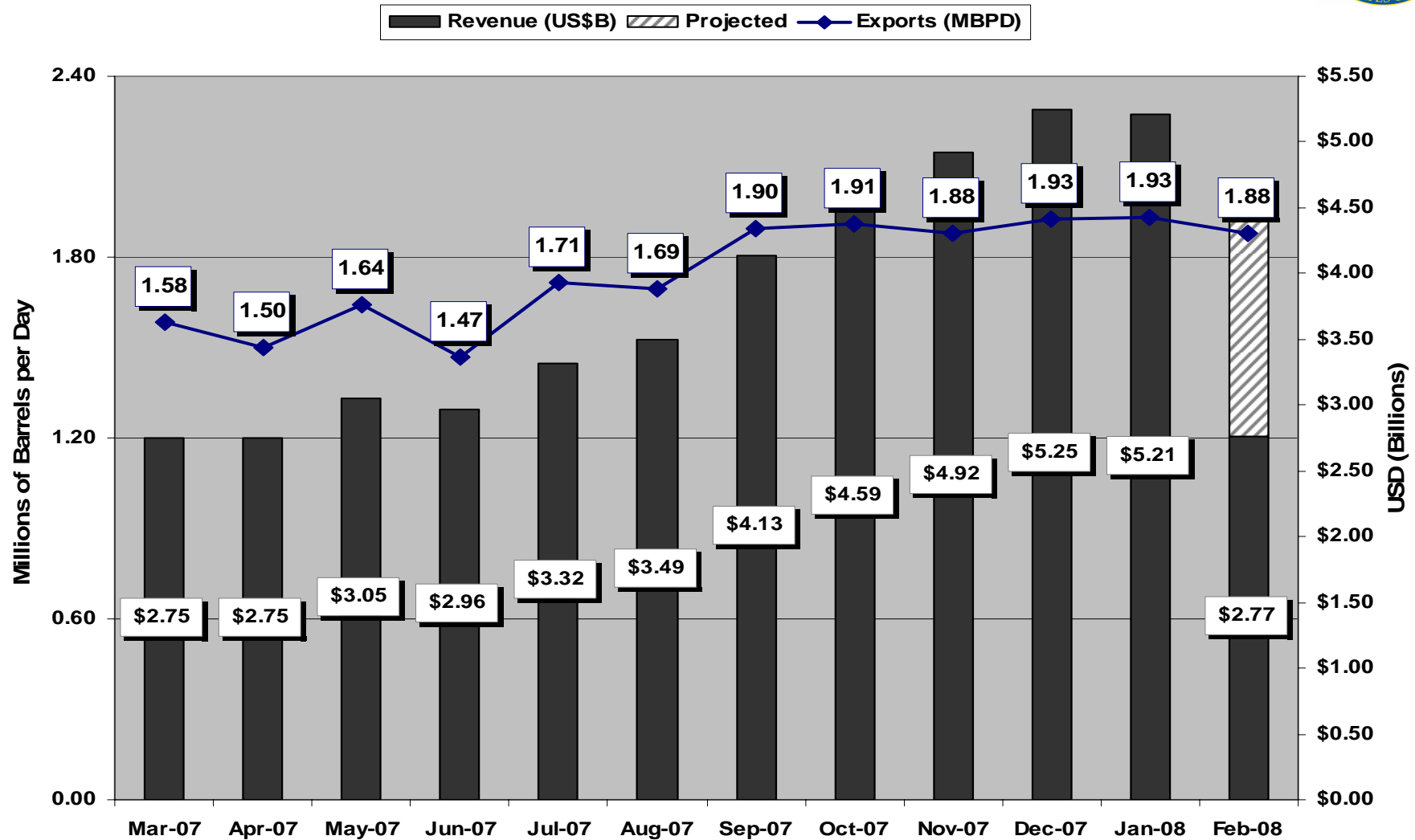
## ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production







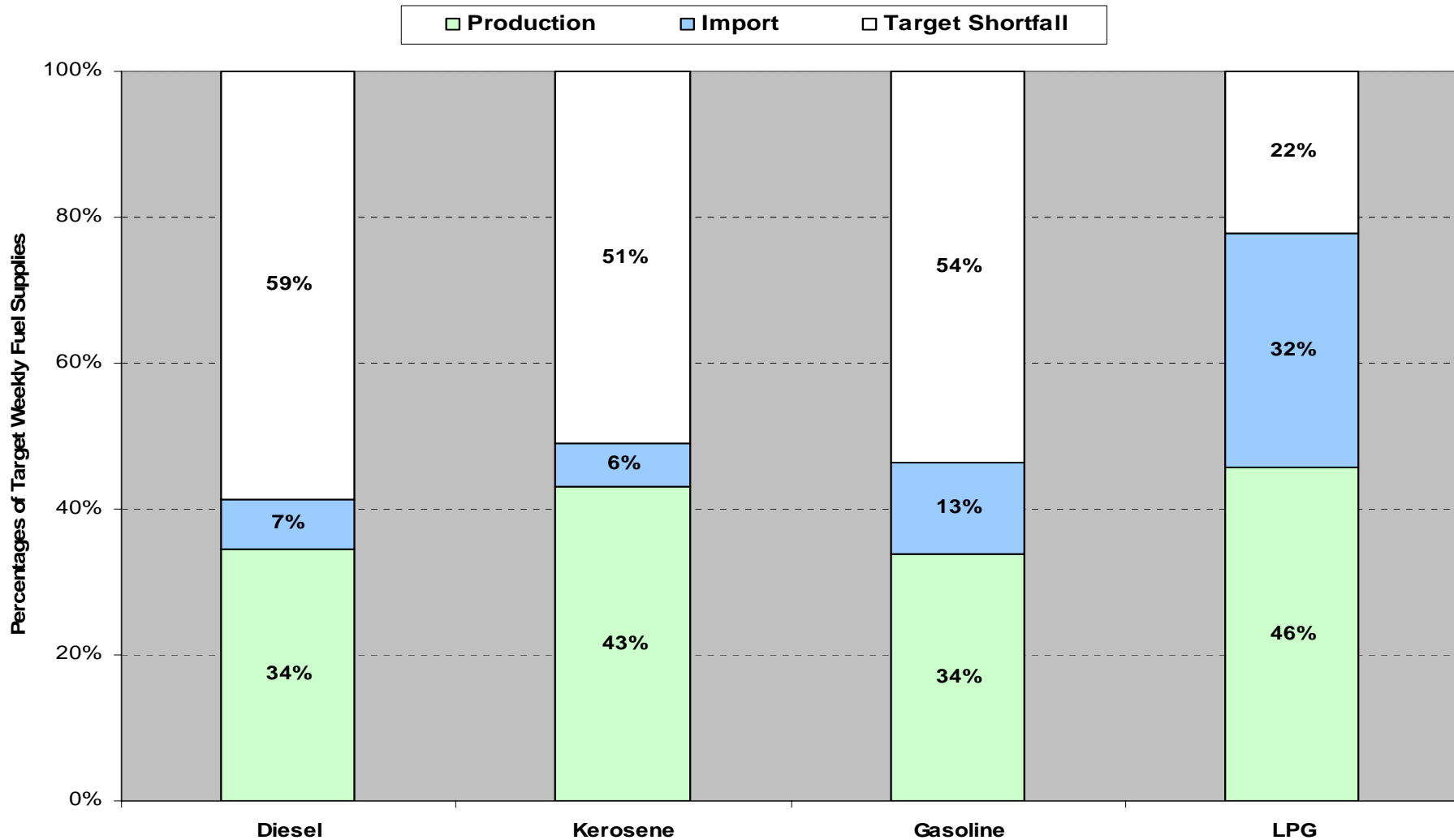
# ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export



- 2007 Revenue Estimate: \$41.0 Billion
- 2008 Revenue Estimate \$ 8.0 Billion (Year to Date)



# ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies



Note: This is a daily average for February 11 – 17

- Diesel: 10.1 ML supply of 24.5 ML target
- Kerosene: 7.1 ML supply of 14.6 ML target
- Gasoline: 12.4 ML supply of 26.8 ML target
- LPG: 3,967 tons supply of 5,100 tons target



## ECONOMIC – Electricity

### Iraq Power Workers Protest Electricity Ministry Actions:

- Abbas Abd al-Hassan Rahi, chief of the Technicians and Engineers Union, stated that the Nasiriyah power station is nearing collapse due to a lack of repair and maintenance resources. As a result of this shortage workers at the Nasiriyah power station staged a sit-in and have demanded that the Ministry of Electricity provide more help in keeping the plant operational. “After many requests were made to the Electricity Ministry and the authorities in charge that they fulfill their duties, we organized this sit-in,” said Rahi. Electricity Minister Karim Waheed Hasan wants to see the focus of ministry efforts shift from rehabilitation to rebuilding and construction. Hasan told Voices of Iraq, “The Ministry is about to embark on six projects for the generation of electricity, five in Baghdad and one in al-Maseeb.” Hasan places much of the blame on companies that have been awarded projects but have not started work. The Iraqi Electrical Utility Workers Union claims that the problem is a preference by the ministry for foreign work over Iraqi companies.

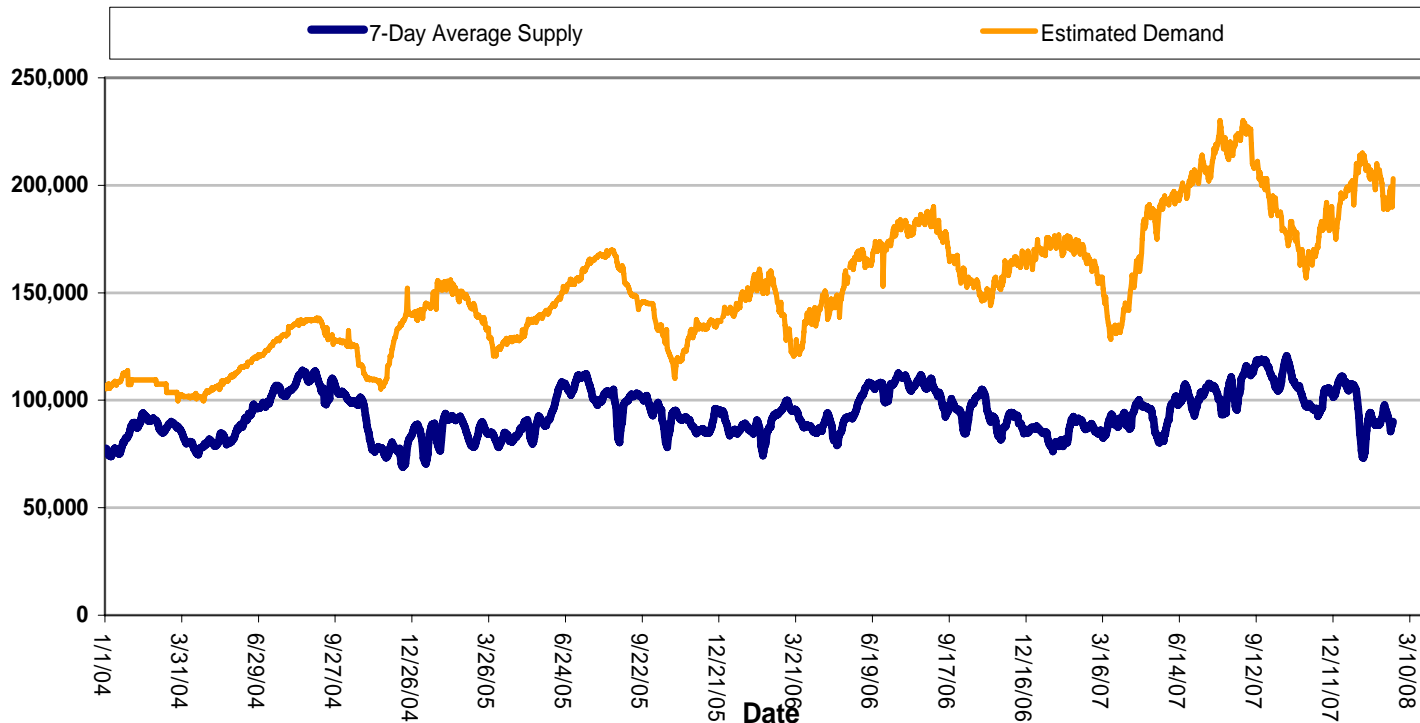
### Multi-Million Dollar Program Will Revamp Karbala Water System:

- The Iraq Minister of Municipalities and Public Works, Riyadh Ghareeb, announced a \$5.6 million sewer project and initiated a sewage rehabilitation program in Karbala. According to Provincial Governor Aqil al-Khazali the project will include the rehabilitation of six water stations and the installation of six electricity generators, and will last six months.



## ECONOMIC – Electricity

Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004

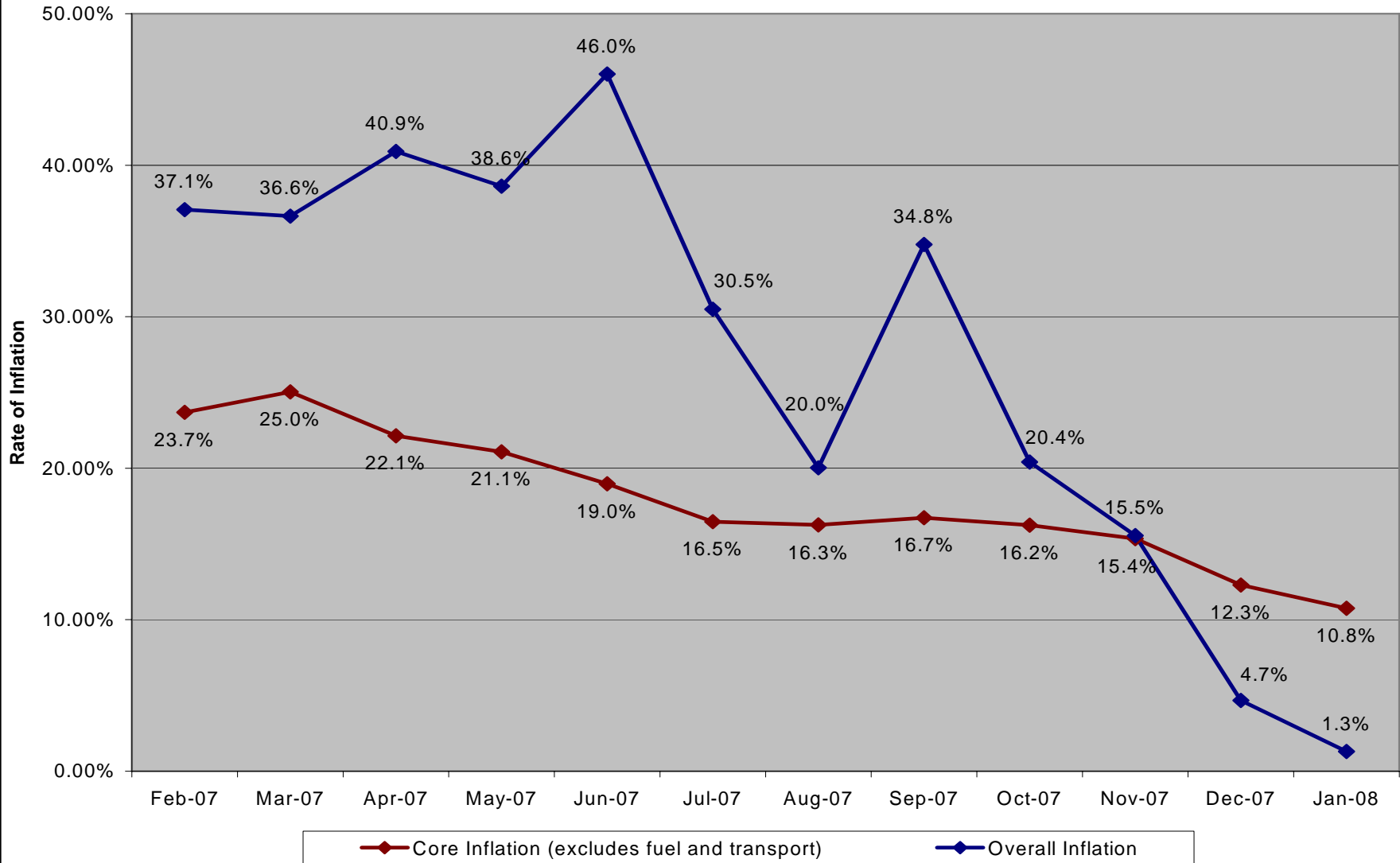


- For February 13-19, daily electricity demand was 14% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 1% below the year-earlier period and met 46% of demand, compared with 53% for the year-earlier period.
- For February 12-18, average hours of power via the electricity grid after meeting demand from essential services: Baghdad 7.1 and nationwide 8.8. Year-ago levels were Baghdad 5.6 and nationwide 8.8.



# ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

## Year-on-Year Inflation





## ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales</b>				
Price (USD)	\$71.79	\$70.73	\$66.76	\$62.82
Yield	8.83%	8.98%	9.56%	10.16%
<b>Central Bank's USD Currency Auction</b>				
USD Sold	\$87,901,000	\$98,985,000	\$107,435,278	\$66,957,492
NID Exchange Rate	\$1,210	\$1,211	\$1,214	\$1,254.00
<b>Total Employed by USG Programs</b>				
	82,608	95,609	95,414	N/A



## ECONOMIC - Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and 2

Sector	Allocated	Un-allocated	Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
			Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law Enforcement	\$4,985	\$20	\$4,961	\$4,960	\$0	\$4,961	\$4,960	\$0	\$4,856	\$4,858	\$2
Justice, Public Safety and Civil Society	\$2,264	\$44	\$2,253	\$2,253	\$0	\$2,250	\$2,249	\$0	\$2,145	\$2,148	\$3
Electricity Sector	\$4,201	\$25	\$4,068	\$4,068	\$0	\$4,048	\$4,048	\$0	\$3,736	\$3,741	\$5
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,714	\$11	\$1,602	\$1,601	-\$1	\$1,602	\$1,601	-\$1	\$1,559	\$1,560	\$1
Water Resources and Sanitation	\$2,084	\$18	\$1,981	\$1,983	\$2	\$1,971	\$1,973	\$2	\$1,770	\$1,772	\$2
Transportation and Communications	\$454	\$3	\$451	\$451	\$0	\$451	\$451	\$0	\$399	\$402	\$4
Roads, Bridges and Construction	\$332	\$1	\$318	\$318	-\$1	\$318	\$318	-\$1	\$242	\$245	\$3
Health Care	\$813	\$10	\$784	\$784	\$0	\$775	\$775	\$0	\$718	\$718	\$1
Private Sector Development	\$821	\$2	\$821	\$821	\$0	\$821	\$821	\$0	\$806	\$806	\$0
Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance	\$426	\$10	\$423	\$423	\$0	\$423	\$423	\$0	\$395	\$395	\$0
Admin Expense (USAID, STATE)	\$213	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,306</b>	<b>\$143</b>	<b>\$17,872</b>	<b>\$17,871</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$17,829</b>	<b>\$17,829</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$16,834</b>	<b>\$16,855</b>	<b>\$21</b>
IRRF II Non-Construction	-	-	\$7,932	\$7,932	\$0	\$7,911	\$7,911	\$0	\$7,659	\$7,667	\$7
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,420	\$9,419	\$0	\$9,398	\$9,398	\$0	\$8,659	\$8,672	\$14
IRRF II Overhead	-	-	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$516	\$516	\$0
<b>IRRF I Total</b>	<b>\$2,475</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,232</b>	<b>\$2,232</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,139</b>	<b>\$2,139</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Grand Total IRRF I &amp; II</b>	<b>\$20,781</b>	<b>\$143</b>	<b>\$20,163</b>	<b>\$20,162</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$20,061</b>	<b>\$20,061</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$18,973</b>	<b>\$18,994</b>	<b>\$21</b>



## DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

### Sweden-GOI Sign Agreement on Return of Iraqi Asylees:

- Swedish Ambassador Niclas Trouve and Iraqi FM Zebari signed an agreement February 18 that calls for Iraq to receive Iraqi asylum seekers who have been denied entry by Sweden. Swedish officials have publicly stated that Iraqis will not be deported against their will, although this agreement makes such deportation possible. The Swedish Migration Board reports that 18,559 Iraqis sought asylum in Sweden in 2007; the Government of Sweden has since reduced the number of Iraqi asylees it will accept.

### UN Appeals for More International Assistance for Iraqi Refugees:

- In the midst of a week-long mission to the region focused on Iraqi refugees, Antonio Guterres, the UN's top official for refugees, stated that the GOI and the international community should provide more funding to resettle Iraqi refugees. Around 2 million Iraqi refugees have fled to neighboring countries since the beginning of the Iraq War in 2003. Guterres praised Syria and Jordan for sheltering refugees, but said the international community and the GOI need to be "more engaged in supporting Iraqis and these host countries, which have paid such a high price for their generosity."

### British Foreign Secretary Welcomes Passing of Legislation:

- In a February 16 statement British Foreign Secretary David Miliband welcomed the approval by the Iraqi Parliament February 13 of three key pieces of legislation: the budget, the Provincial Powers Law, and the Amnesty Law. He said these were "three important and positive steps for the future of Iraq," adding that "[t]here is now a clear desire on the part of Iraq's political leaders to reach out to each other in a spirit of compromise, and use the space created by the improved security environment to make real progress on reconciliation. I hope this positive atmosphere continues."





## DIPLOMATIC – Economic Engagement

### Iraqi Oil Ministry Denies West Qurna Deal with Russians:

- The Middle East Economic Survey reports that Iraq's Oil Ministry has denied media reports of an agreement to award development of the West Qurna oil field to Russia's Lukoil in return for Moscow's cancellation of \$12.9 billion of Saddam-era debt. Oil Ministry spokesman Asim Jihad stated that "any company is welcome to come to Iraq and compete on a competitive basis for acreage," but that the Russian debt deal had "no connection with the West Qurna field."



## DIPLOMATIC – Coalition Contributors

### 26 Countries with forces in Iraq (including U.S.)

Albania	Denmark	Korea	Romania
Armenia	El Salvador	Latvia	Singapore
Australia	Estonia	Lithuania	Tonga
Azerbaijan	Georgia	Macedonia	Ukraine
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Japan	Moldova	United Kingdom
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Mongolia	
Czech Republic		Poland	

**TOTAL ~ 9,895 Forces**

### **32 Countries and NATO\*** (including the U.S.) **Support Iraqi Stability Operations**

\*32 includes the U.S., the 25 countries listed above, and six non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey

Note: Fiji and New Zealand, participating as a part of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), are not included.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

- This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.
- Please forward all questions and/or comments to:  
[NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov](mailto:NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov)



## NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (1 of 2)

Slide 4:

- NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov
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- The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average supply load.
- Oil Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

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